



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BÉLA FLECK & ABIGAIL WASHBURN BRING THEIR WILDLY UNIQUE BANJO-PICKING PARTNERSHIP TO THE MCCOY JANUARY 20

Hailed as “the king and queen of the banjo” by *Paste Magazine*, Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn have a musical partnership like no other. 15-time Grammy Award winner Béla Fleck has taken the instrument across multiple genres, and singer/songwriter Abigail Washburn has re-radicalized the clawhammer banjo by combining it with Far East culture and sounds. The two met at a square dance, began collaborating musically, and eventually fell in love. Fleck and Washburn will perform pieces from their Grammy-winning, self-titled debut, as well as their newest album, *Echo in the Valley* (2017).

The McCoy Marquee Series presents Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn at the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts (100 W. Dublin-Granville Rd., New Albany) on Sunday, January 20, at 7 pm. Tickets are \$31.50-\$51.50 and can be purchased in-person at the CAPA Ticket Center (39 E. State St.), online at www.mccoycenter.org, or by phone at (614) 469-0939 or (800) 745-3000.

Over the years, Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn played together most visibly in the Sparrow Quartet alongside Ben Sollee and Casey Driessen, and informally at a pickin’ party here, a benefit there, or occasionally popping up in each other’s solo shows. Fans of tradition-tweaking acoustic fare eagerly anticipated that Béla and Abigail would begin making music together as a duo.

Fleck has the virtuosic, jazz-to-classical ingenuity of an iconic instrumentalist and composer with bluegrass roots. His collaborations range from his ground-breaking, standard-setting ensemble

Béla Fleck and the Flecktones to a staggeringly broad array of musical experiments. From writing concertos for full symphony orchestra, exploring the banjo's African roots, to jazz duos with Chick Corea, many tout Béla Fleck as the world's premier banjo player.

Washburn has the earthy sophistication of a postmodern, old-time singer/songwriter who has drawn critical acclaim for her solo albums. She has done fascinating work in folk musical diplomacy in China, presented an original theatrical production, and has contributed to singular side groups Uncle Earl and The Wu-Force. In addition, Washburn has recently created a non-profit with Chinese zither-master, Wu Fei, called the Ripple Effect, whose mission is to unite and open hearts through the unique sounds and harmony of American and Chinese folk music.

With one eye on using the banjo to showcase America's rich heritage and the other pulling the noble instrument from its most familiar arena into new and unique realms, Béla and Abigail present music that feels wildly innovative and familiar at the same time. Whether at home, on stage, or on record, their deep bond, combined with the way their distinct musical personalities and banjo styles interact, makes theirs a picking partnership unlike any other on the planet.

www.BelaFleck.com

www.AbigailWashburn.com

CALENDAR LISTING

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Sunday, January 20, 7 pm

McCoy Center (100 W. Dublin-Granville Rd., New Albany)

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The 2018-19 Marquee Series at the McCoy Center for the Arts is made possible through the generous support of the New Albany Community Foundation and Lbrands Foundation.

About the Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts

The Jeanne B. McCoy Community Center for the Arts, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, established in 2007 by a unique joint operating agreement between the New Albany Community Foundation, the City of New Albany, Plain

Township, and the New Albany Plain Local School District. Since opening in 2008, the McCoy Center has drawn more than 100,000 people, fulfilling its mission of fostering an appreciation of arts and culture by providing life-long learning opportunities through education, exposure, and participation. For more information, visit www.mccoycenter.org.

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